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TELECON
Dinitz/Kissinger
October 24, 1973
10:00 p.m.

K. ...joint resolution by the Soviet Union and the United States that we would put forces in jointly or they would go in unilaterally to stop the fighting. We obviously will not agree to joint....

D. What do they have in mind?

K. They claim all they want is to get the fighting stopped.

D. I have two items to bring to your attention. I just got information that in the city of Suez a unit of our paratroopers has been under constant fire for several hours. It has been trapped and attacked by heavy guns and fire for several hours by their commando unit. We have to rescue these units or they will be slaughtered. What we intend to do is have air assistance given to them so they can break out of the trap.

K. All right. If the Soviets have decided to go in I just think we turned the wheel yesterday one screw too much.

D. We won't go into it again.

K. Let's look at the tactics of this. We have to offer them something which puts them totally in the wrong. I want to know if you can agree to return to the position you occupied before it all started.

D. How can this be done! I can inform the Prime Minister if you want me to but I will tell you in advance....

K. I don't have time for this....

D. The Soviets will put forces to fight us?

K. That is not impossible. In fact, I think that is what they will do. I will read the letter to you as soon as I have it transcribed. The Soviets say if we don't put forces in jointly they will go in unilaterally.

D. Contingents to peace or contingents to fight?

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K. They are talking about peace....

D. I am just a representative of a very small country---

K. Look, I have no time for this! You have to check... They said either we will do it jointly with them or they will put in forces unilaterally. If there is nothing you can do I will accept that too. What should we reply as far as you are concerned?

D. I will put that to the Prime Minister.

K. All right.

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